Jacqueline Darrett

Questions for Appointees to the Central Michigan University Board of Control

1. What goals would you like to achieve during your time on the board?

To help Central Michigan University achieve its mission to be competitive in professional disciplines. Help in creating an environment that supports teaching and learning as the top priority. Provide educational experiences and programs that enhance diversity and a global perspective. Enhance the infrastructure for research and creative activity. Provide service for the public good.

2. In your discussion with the governor's office prior to your appointment, what was the general charge given to you?

To fulfill my fiduciary responsibility as a trustee and carry out my duties with integrity.

3. Over the last 15 to 20 years it seems that all state universities have been expanding programs to try to offer everything to everyone. Do you think this is a good idea?

No. Universities should focus programs on populations they serve with ongoing evaluations to make sure programs are adding value and are fiscally responsible in meeting identified goals.

4. There is a proposal to separate funding of the state's three largest universities from the other twelve universities. Should the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University be separately funded?

No. It is an important time for our universities to focus energy toward broad support for higher education and, that all universities are treated fairly.

5. Under what circumstances would you vote to increase tuition at your school?

Only to the point to ensure that students will be well served.

6. Do you think your university has done a good job of controlling costs? Where would you find additional cost savings?

I have spoken with the university and inquired about controlling costs. The university has a self insured health insurance plan to reduce premiums. They also provide their own heat. I would support and encourage the university to be fiscally responsible.

7. What type of outcomes should the university measure to determine if it is being successful (i.e., graduation rates, how long it took to graduate, job placement in the graduates major, etc)?" Does your university currently do anything like this?

Yes. They track all programs relevance and job placement, rates of graduation, time it takes to graduate and availability of course classes to students.

8. What is your position on the importance of state universities as authorizers of charter public schools?

We need some alternative for problem schools. It is important that Michigan's youth are able to receive a quality education.

9. What is your opinion of the new constitutional amendment banning the use of race and gender preferences in public university admissions? How will you ensure that the amendment is implemented at your university?

As a trustee, I will ensure that the university follows the law.

10. In which areas of technological research does your university specialize? How effective is your school of commercializing this research to grow the state's economy?

Central Michigan University specializes in vehicle safety, nanotechnology, and body scanning for apparel. Most of CMU's research is focused toward commercializing technology to the market place.

11. Do you see postsecondary education as mainly a conduit to the work world or is there intrinsic value to pursuing a higher education?

Postsecondary education is conduit to the work world. There is also intrinsic value in post secondary education that nurtures personal growth.

12. Do you think K-12 institutions are doing a good job of preparing students for college? Why?

The new standards required by the state are helping to prepare high school graduates for college.